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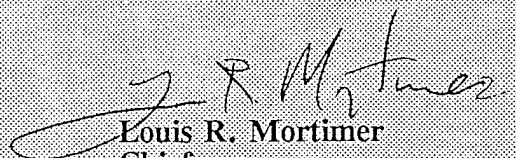
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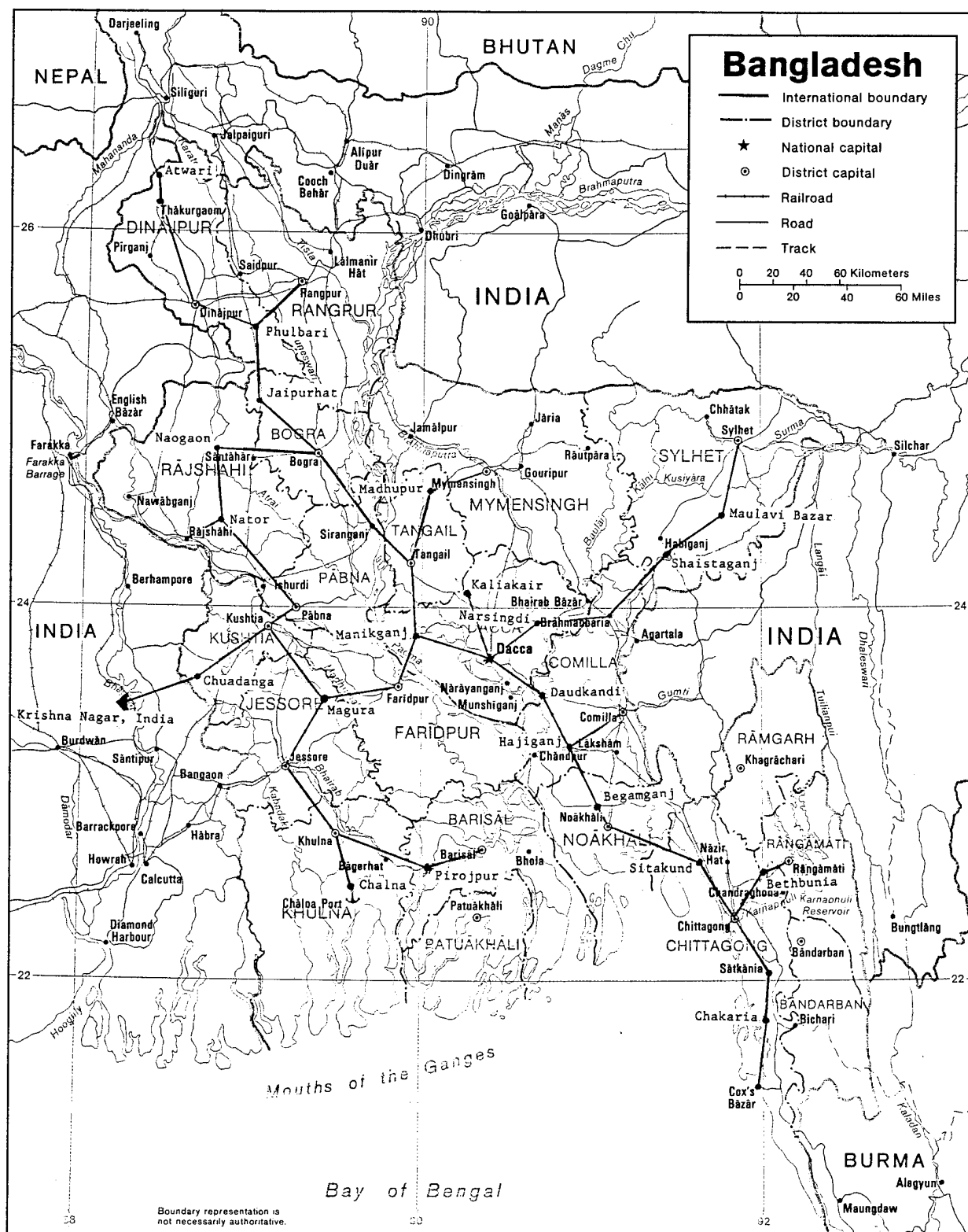
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PREFACE

This study covers the civil radio-relay system of Bangladesh. The more specific essential elements of the system identified through all source research have been included in the AIF database. Information is current as of 29 May 1987.



Map - Radio-relay route

THE RADIO-RELAY SYSTEM OF BANGLADESH

All public telecommunications services in Bangladesh are government-owned with administrative control vested in the Ministry of Communications (MOC). The MOC delegates responsibility for the development and operation of all domestic and international public telecommunications services to the Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTT).

The first radio-relay system was commissioned in 1970; since then, radio-relay systems between major towns have been steadily replacing carrier-equipped open-wire lines and HF and VHF networks. By the early 1980s, 17 of 20 district headquarters (administrative subdivisions of the country) were linked via radio-relay, with the other 3 headquarters linked to the national radio-relay system via UHF. Subdivisional headquarters and other large towns, however, are still served by HF and VHF links, as well as open-wire lines. The system provides adequate telephone, television, and telegraph coverage throughout most of the country.

The domestic system radiates from the national capital--Dacca--its center, to all parts of Bangladesh. The first routes in operation--Dacca to Chittagong in the southeast and Dacca-Khulna and Dacca-Kushtia running southwest and west respectively--were introduced with 960-channel capacities in 1970 by General Telephone and Electronics Corporation (GTE) of the United States. (The Dacca-Chittagong route was upgraded to 1,800 channels in 1985, with a 300-channel spur link to Cox's Bazar provided by Nippon Electric Company (NEC) of Japan.) Nine hundred sixty-channel capacity routes also run northwest to Atwari, operational in 1980-81, and northeast to Sylhet (equipment by Toshiba of Japan in 1975-76).

The radio-relay system in Bangladesh also provides international communication via a 960-channel capacity route through Chuadanga in western Bangladesh to Krishna Nagar, India. Radio-relay links between Chittagong and Bethbunia facilitate international communication via Bethbunia's satellite ground station.

Future plans for the system include upgrading the channel capacity of several routes, including the Dacca-Khulna route expansion, from 960 to 1,800 channels. In addition, the now totally analog system will be gradually changed over to digital during the Third 5-Year Plan (1985-90).

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